REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

Claims 2 to 8 and 10 to 16 are in the application, all other claims having been cancelled.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, the term "optionally remote" has been removed from the claims and this obviates this ground of rejection.

Claims 2 to 6, 8 and 10 to 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Killian reference. Claim 7 was rejected as being obvious in view of 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over the said reference. With respect to Applicants' arguments, the Examiner stated that the closing of the screen page in the presence of alarm icons were within the system of Killian since the closing of the screen page can occur inherently as a result of shutting off the computer. The alarm icon feature is deemed to be present in step 86 of Figure 5 because of a user request confirmation of data receives feed back indicating the conformation cannot be made the data returned to the user making this negative confirmation an icon and indicative of an alarm condition. With respect to Applicants' arguments concerning that each stage is not followed by a

stage of sequential and conditional validation, the Examiner states that the functional stage in Killian is the receipt of a shipment of reagents having master lot information and that this is followed by conditional validation stages, each of which is illustrated in Figure 5. With respect to Applicants' arguments that Killian lacks the teaching of reinjection of the biological fluids being processed, the Examiner states that Killian concerns systems for managing the testing of donated blood which is used expressly for the purpose of reinjection into medical patients in need of blood.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection since it is deemed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution with respect to the Killian reference. Claims 15 and 16 recite the screen page being closed responsibly to a closing order only if all of the instructions have been carried out as indicated in lines 24 to 32 of page 10. Moreover, the claims call for an alarm icon being provided for prompting the operator to consult a screen page listing anomalies detected during the processing stage and these features are not in the Killian reference.

As noted previously, the Killian reference discloses automatically testing biological fluids including a network database holding test protocols and the test results for identified samples. The system uses a method for processing information related to blood samples within a biology testing system but not within a therapeutic process. The reference has nothing to do with Applicants' therapeutic process for processing

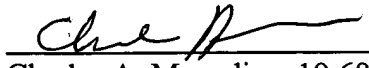
information used for quality management in the therapeutic process. Therefore, the teachings are completely non-analogous to Applicants' invention wherein in the therapeutic process, there is a reinjection operation into a patient from whom the cells have been collected. The routine for recording master lot information disclosed in lines 20 to 29 of page 25 and lines 1 to 20 of page 26 and as illustrated in Figure 5 of the reference includes a succession of steps such as selection data entering and conformation request stages. It cannot be used as the standard operating procedure for preparation comprising a series of functional stages.

Moreover, each stage of the routine of the reference is not followed by a stage of sequential and conditional validation of the said stage. This means that Killian differs from claim 15 in that it does not relate to a method for processing information used for quality management in a therapeutic process involving several entities including an operational entity and a preparation laboratory. It also does not disclose that after each functional stage, there is a stage of sequential and conditional validation of the functional stage with each screen page being closed responsive to a closing order only if all of the operational instructions within in the screen page have been carried out. It also does not disclose an alarm icon being provided for prompting an operator to consult a screen page listing anomalies detected during the said processing stage and also does not disclose a stage for inputting post-reinjection follow up information and forwarding the information to the operational entity. Therefore, the reference does not anticipate or render obvious the system of claims 15 and 16.

The system disclosed by Kilian is intended to process control for fluid biological testing and not for quality management in a thereapeutic process and the Killian system does not include any reinjection stage and is not intended to control a therapeutic process as in Applicants' invention. Killian is concerned with testing blood samples which is well known to include some destructive treatment supplied on a small portion of each sample, the tested part being disposed of once the testing is completed. In contrast thereto, Applicants' invention applies to a modifying treatment applied to the same cells that will be reinjected into the patient as indicated in line 20 of page 1 and therefore, the Killian objectives are completely different from Applicants'. Therefore, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Muserlian, Lucas and Mercanti



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Enclosure